

Claims" which is also attached hereto lists all the claims that are pending upon entry of this amendment.

Please amend the following claims as indicated without prejudice or disclaimer.

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17. (Once amended) A method of recovering factor VIII/von Willebrand factor-complex (factor VIII/vWF-complex) comprising:
 - (a) providing a factor VIII/vWF-complex containing protein solution,
 - (b) providing a cation exchanger,
 - (c) binding said factor VIII/vWF-complex of said protein solution on said cation exchanger, and
 - (d) eluting factor VIII/vWF-complex from said cation exchanger by a step-wise elution process to recover factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers.
18. (Once amended) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said factor VIII/vWF-complex is bound to said cation exchanger at a salt concentration of ≤ 250 mM and factor VIII/vWF-complex containing low-molecular weight vWF multimers, factor VIII free from platelet agglutinating vWF activity, and factor VIII:C is eluted and recovered at a salt concentration of between ≥ 250 mM and ≤ 300 mM.
19. (Once amended) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers at a salt concentration of ≥ 300 mM.
20. (Once amended) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers at a salt concentration of ≥ 350 mM.

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21. (Once amended) A method as set forth in claim 19, wherein said recovered factor VIII/vWF-complex is a factor VIII/vWF complex-containing fraction free from low-molecular weight vWF multimers, vWF degradation products, non complexed factor VIII, and is substantially free of contaminating nucleic acids.

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25. (Once amended) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said factor VIII/vWF-complex-containing protein solution is selected from the group consisting of a plasma, a plasma fraction, a cryoprecipitate, a cell-free supernatant of a recombinant cell culture, an extract of a recombinant cell culture, and a protein fraction enriched in factor VIII/vWF-complex.

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Please add the following new claims:

38. (New) A method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers at a salt concentration of ≥ 300 mM.

39. (New) A method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers at a salt concentration of ≥ 350 mM.

N.E.
IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the following new paragraph as the abstract on a new page at the end of the application:

--ABSTRACT

Methods for recovering factor VIII/vWF-complex that involve binding factor VIII/vWF-complex from a protein solution to a cation exchanger and recovering factor VIII/vWF-complex by step-wise elution are disclosed. The recovered complex contains high-molecular weight vWF